

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02386 011946Z

45

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 SY-05

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 FBIE-00 /070 W
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FOR A/CCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, VE

SUBJ: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING: PRESS

1. THE KIDNAPPING OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVE WILLIAM NIEHOUS CONTINUES AS MAJOR FRONT PAGE NEWS ITEM ALTHOUGH THERE IS LITTLE NEW TO REPORT.
2. BOTH NACIONAL AND UNIVERSAL LEAD FRONT PAGES WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ'S STATEMENTS ON THE KIDNAPPING IN AN OUT-OF-TOWN PRESS CONFERENCE. UNIVERSAL'S FIVE COLUMN DOUBLE DECK HEAD "CATEGORIC STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT PEREZ--THE GOVERNMENT WILL FACE UP TO KIDNAPPERS NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE." SUBHEAD "HE SAID THAT THE ACT WAS INSPIRED BY THE SAME MOTIVATIONS AS THE ATTACKS ON OPEC IN VIENNA AND THE OLYMPICS IN MUNICH."
3. NACIONAL'S FIVE COLUMN DOUBLE DECK HEAD "PRESIDENT PEREZ REPUDIATES KIDNAPPING." SUBHEAD "HE SAID THE WORLD IS SEEING A PERIOD OF ETHICAL DISORDER WHICH, EACH DAY, ADDS NEWCRIMES TO THE LIST OF TRADITIONAL ONES."
4. SHARING FRONT PAGE OF UNIVERSAL IS OFF-LEAD WITH THREE UNCLASSIFIED

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COLUMN EIGHT DECK HEAD "US. AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN DENIES THAT

THE KIDNAPPED EXECUTIVE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS." (SIC). A COMMUNIQUE PURPORTEDLY FROM THE KIDNAPPERS ACCUSES NIEHOUS OF BEING AN "AGENT" FOR THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OF BEING "INVOLVED IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY." THIS IS CATEGORICALLY DENIED BY THE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS QUESTIONED BY PRESS AFTER CALLING ON MRS. NIEHOUS SUNDAY MORNING. COMMENT CARRIED IN OTHER PAPERS AND ON TELEVISION.

5. EL UNIVERSAL ALSO LEADS BACK PAGE OF NEWSPAPER (TRADITIONALLY DEVOTED TO SENSATIONAL STORIES, MOSTLY MURDERS,) WITH SIX COLUMN DOUBLE DECK HEAD "COMMENT IN POLICE CIRCLES--THE KIDNAPPING WAS TO HAVE BEEN DONE DURING THE KISSINGER VISIT."

6. UNIVERSAL RUNS A BACK PAGE STORY WITH FIVE COLUMN TRIPLE DECK HEAD "FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY SAYS OWENS ILLINOIS WOULD BE DISPOSED TO PAY RANSOM IF THE KIDNAPPERS ASK FOR IT." RESPONDING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION EARLY SUNDAY, THE FINANCIAL DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY. JOSE PUENTE, REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE COMPANY WOULD PAY RANSOM. "HE SAID THE COMPANY WOULD BE DISPOSED TO SATISFY THE ECONOMIC DEMANDS OF THE CAPTORS WHEN AND IF THESE WERE MADE."

7. EL NACIONAL CARRIES INSIDE PAGE FOUR COLUMN TRIPLE DECKHEAD "KIDNAPS AND STRIKES ARE AN ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE AND PRESTIGE OF THE HEAD OF STATE, SAYS PRESIDENT OF FARM FEDERATION AND AD LEADER." STORY REPORTS THAT THE AD POLITICIAN DESCRIBED RECENT UNREST IN STUDENT RANKS, STRIKES AND KIDNAPS AS AN ATTEMPT TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, GIVEN ITS INCREASING SUCCESS AND POPULARITY.

8. EL NACIONAL ALSO RUNS BACK-PAGE STORY SAYING A TENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION HAS LINKED AN ESCAPED POLITICAL PRISONER WITH THE KIDNAPPING AND INVESTIGATION IS PROCEEDING ALONG THESE LINES.

9. SAME STORY ALSO REPORTS THAT A MYSTERIOUS VISITOR APPEARED AT THE NIEHOUS RESIDENCE SUNDAY NIGHT, AND SPECULATES THAT HE IS JOHN T. LYNCH, OF THE "FAMOUS PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY WHICH INVESTIGATES KIDNAPPING, JOHN T. LYNCH, CO." (IN FACT THERE WAS A UNCLASSIFIED

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FRANCIS LYNCH WHO CALLED ON THE EMBASSY SATURDAY NIGHT. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY OFFICE OF OWENS-ILLINOIS.) THE NEWSPAPER STORY SPECULATES THAT JOHN T. LYNCH, CO. HAS BEEN HIRED TO ADVISE ON THE LOCAL CASE, AND INCLUDES A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF DETAIL ABOUT ITS MEANS OF OPERATION AND THE WAY IN WHICH IT IS PAID.

10. USIS OFFICER ADVISED THAT TWO WEEKS AGO AP NEWS SERVICE CARRIED A FEATURE STORY ABOUT LYNCH. THIS IS AN OBVIOUS GARBLED VERSION OF

SAME.

11. ALTOGETHER PRESS COVERAGE IN EACH OF THE CARACAS DAILIES
AVERAGES FOUR PAGES. ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN EQUALLY
EXTENSIVE. RANDOM SAMPLING OF THE RADIO BROADCASTS IN THE CAPITAL
AREA REVEALS WIDE COVERAGE OF THE KIDNAPPING WITH SPECULATION
GROWING ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN DIRECT PROPORTION TO LACK OF NEW
DEVELOPMENTS.
SHLAUDEMANN

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